



THE RIO NEWS.

PUBLISHED ON THE 5th, 15th AND 24th OF EVERY MONTH.

VOL. XII.

RIO DE JANEIRO, MARCH 15th, 1885

NUMBER 8

OFFICIAL DIRECTORY

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Limited Express: Upward, leaves Rio 6:10 a. m.; arriving at Barra 9:49 a. m.; Porto Novo (central line) 5:20 p. m.; Cachoeira (S. Paulo branch) 5:38 p. m.; Downward, leaves Cachoeira 5:34 a. m.; Porto Novo 6:19 a. m.; arriving at Barra 12:32 and 1:58 p. m.; Rio 5:38 p. m. Stops at all stations. Connects with Santa Cruz branch at Sapopemba, and Macacos branch at Belém.
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CANTAGALLO R.R.—Leaves Niterohy (Sant' Anna) 7:15 a. m., arriving at Nova Friburgo 12:05; Condição (1 hour per tramway from Cantagallo) 2:42 and Macuco 3:48 p. m. Return train leaves Macuco 5:30, Cordero 6:48 and Nova Friburgo 12:25 p. m., arriving at Niterohy 4:55 p. m. A ferry boat runs between Rio and Sant' Anna, connecting with trains.
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THE RIO NEWS

PUBLISHED TRIMONTHLY
for the mail packets of the 5th, 15th and 25th
of the month.

A. J. LAMOUREUX, Editor and Proprietor.

Contains a summary of news and a review of Brazilian affairs
alist of the arrivals and departures of foreign vessels, the com-
mercial report and price current of the market, tables of stock
quotations and sales, a table of freights and charters, and all
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EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION OFFICE:—
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Subscription and advertisement accounts will be received by
GEORGE H. PHELPS, Esq.,
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Messrs. JOHN MILLER & Co.,
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RIO DE JANEIRO, MARCH 15th, 1885.

THE Election of the officers of the Chamber of Deputies shows that the Liberal dissidents hold the balance of power for the moment. These gentlemen only numbering some ten or twelve, have a tremendous responsibility hanging over them, and it is to be hoped that their patriotism will be equal to the occasion. H. M. the Emperor states that all Brazilians are emancipationists, and the question seems to hinge upon the manner in which this matter is to be decided. The *Gazeta de Notícias* points out no less than three different opinions among these dissidents; those who wish to avoid all discussion of the question, those who have modifications of Senator Dantas' scheme to propose and those who are in favour of the project of Senator Lafayette, when he was premier. The first are to our mind little better than obstructionists. The Chamber was called to decide the emancipation question, and the Deputies cannot escape the obligation of discussing it. The second have undoubtedly a right to be heard and they will in all probability enjoy this right. The present state of political affairs is almost intolerable. The Speech asks that steps be taken to secure the maintenance of order, pending the solution of the emancipation question, and this clause would cause serious alarm, were it not that the character of the people does not tend to disturbance, or civil war. But the all-powerful dozen Liberal deputies must feel as we do; they able to cause a catastrophe, such as would shake Brazil to its centre, or they may through patriotism avert so great a calamity. The emancipationists, it must be allowed, have lately shown great prudence and coolness. They have apparently awaited the assembling of the legislature, that was to decide upon the important question and we think they have done well. Suppose however that the Chamber endeavours to evade this question? The effect would be, a renewal of the agitation and the continuation of the unsettled state of affairs that should be at once decided. We most sincerely trust that the arbiters of their country's welfare will show that patriotism, which the seriousness of the case demands. If there be a personal objection to Senator Dantas, let it be frankly announced; if the Conservative minority wish the glory of carrying the emancipation law, let them so state. *Jogo franco*, gentlemen, is at times necessary and the present seems one of these occasions.

In the extract we publish from the annual review of the London *Statist* is an expression that should be noted by all merchants,

viz: "The fall in commodities has been so great, that it must have provided for any adjustment that may be necessary to the scarcity of gold at the present time." While every one has been attributing declining markets to bad trade, over-production and want of confidence, may not this very decrease in the gold supply be the prime cause of the decline in prices of manufactures and commodities? We do not mean to enter the field of political economy; but there exists a coincidence of a decreasing gold supply, (now the only standard of value in Europe and America) and a most disheartening decline in prices. When Holland adopted, and a French statesman, whose treatise Mr. Cobden translated, proposed, that a silver standard should be adopted, the discoveries of gold in California and Australia had completely demoralized European financial authorities. Fortunately silver was not then adopted, for the effect of the discovery of the immense wealth of certain American mines would have been incalculable. How will this question of dearer gold, or *mutatis mutandis* lower prices affect Brazil? Most unfavorably, we fear. An agricultural country must harvest and market its crops; unlike a manufacturer of iron, or of similar merchandise that may be stored, the producer of cereals, coffee, sugar etc. must market his crops, or see them rot on his hands. Cereals and sugar may be transformed into other commodities but coffee remains coffee and must be exported *in specie*. Now, if an increasing value for gold causes a proportionate decrease in the values of merchandise each year, and if in addition to this inevitable feature of commerce the supply of coffee fully equals all demands, what must Brazil do? Produce cheaper than other producing countries, is the only reply. Brazil possesses the great advantage of being nearer to consuming markets than any of her competitors in the trade and should, sooner or later, take advantage of this "handicap." But we see few efforts in this direction. Attraction of immigration; division of large plantations; emancipation of slaves, are all either treated in the *amanhã* and *espere um pouco* style, or meet with opposition. We acknowledge the maxim *Querenda pecunia primum*; but in the present state of affairs the commerce of Brazil cannot wait until the political settlement is made and money be sought and secured. What we desire in the interest of those who find that by financial carelessness their investments in Brazil are likely to be less productive than was expected, is that the authorities should drop the secrecy cast over the exchange transactions of the Treasury; that either it should do business with any or all brokers, or acknowledged that its necessities prevent this. Be frank, gentlemen of Treasury, publish what you take and do not allow of rumours to the disadvantage of the Treasury and of commerce.

THERE is hardly a day that the local papers do not register the arrest of rowdies, or *capoeiras*, as they are here called, and curiosity has led us to observe how frequently the same names appear. Messrs. *Bijú, Cê te espero* and Co. seem to have less difficulty in leaving the police stations, than honest people have in entering them. These *capoeiras* are regularly organized bands of ruffians, who, fortunately for quiet people, only occasionally stab a man for the pleasure of experimenting their skill in disembowelling; or, as has occurred more than once, in avenging private grudges. Their audacity has however reached such a point, that a very short time ago a regular battle was fought in the *Largo da Carioca*, within two blocks of the Rua do Ouvidor, our principal street, by two inimical bands and for some half-an-hour, they took charge

of the square. As they were fighting among themselves knives were not generally used, but stones flew all around, sticks were used without any discretion, the shopkeepers raised the usual *Fecha! Fecha!* and when finally the police appeared, the number of captures was ridiculously small. The impunity with which the *capoeiras* occasion terror to peaceful people and the facility with which they get their discharges from the authorities when (as so rarely occurs) arrested, is a problem, we do not undertake to solve; but that there must be something radically wrong in the police department when such occurrences can be again and again repeated, is a fact which no one can question. The usual procedure, as we hear, on the capture of a rough is to make him sign a bond for good behaviour, with the penalty of three months goal, if the bond be forfeited. But unless there be a number of persons possessing the same *alias*, this does not seem to be enforced; for repeatedly the same names appear in the police reports. One of our daily colleagues is publishing a French bulletin, and we have two French colleagues. Could not one, or all of the three, touch on this subject? What would be said were a passenger from one of the Trans-Atlantic steamers to be disembowelled in the streets of Rio in this year of grace 1885? and yet where a crowd is seen approaching, it is just as well for a foreigner to get into a doorway, or behind some other party, the stouter the better, and let it pass. What is the remedy for this state of affairs? The summary execution of every ruffian arrested in a disturbance with concealed arms on his person, we say. But as capital punishment is decried here, and "an eye for an eye" not Victor Hugo's theory, twenty-one years at the penitentiary with hard labour would probably act as a deterrent. Murderers have rather a good time at *Fernando de Noronha*; they may, apparently, have their wives, or mistresses, with them and if in playfulness or in the fulness of their love they kill these, they are no worse off than before; for being condemned for life, where are the odds, if one more murder be added to the list? Capital punishment, however anti-sentimental, is a necessity of civilized society.

In reply to a remark of Senator Correia that the bankruptcy of the country might not be very far off, the premier replied that matters should not be made worse than they really are, for although the present financial position was serious, the hypothesis of bankruptcy was very far off, and he hoped the explosion of this would never be heard. The premier then repeated the old story of economies and increased taxes, and promised to present a project as to these latter similar to the project of Senator Lafayette when minister of finance. It is somewhat reassuring to hear that a project is to be presented, although when it will be is as yet uncertain. The further increase of the floating debt of the Treasury to the banks, by the issue of the new treasury bills, was considerable during February and the amount of old and new bills now held by the banks alone exceeds 50,000,000\$; how much more private individuals hold can not be estimated with any degree of certainty. It is thus becoming more and more urgent that this very large sum should be liquidated in some wise, and the only possible manner in which this can be done is by funding, and the only manner of funding is an emission of *apolicies*. London seems hopelessly closed for the moment by the rumors of possible complications in Europe, and the Continental money markets, are very unlikely to entertain the idea of a loan. The solution of the situation is in this manner reduced to this one form of its achievement and so becomes sim-

plified. Whether our markets can absorb at once so very considerable a sum as must be issued is uncertain; that they will ultimately be able to take it, so long as the forced demand (as we have so frequently pointed out) continues is merely a question of time. The matter of taxes can only be regarded as a further sacrifice the inhabitants of Brazil are obliged to make to the financial inexperience of their rulers. The innocent must suffer and the innocent in this case will in all probability be commerce and trade. A further increase in duties will give the *coup de grâce* to importation, which as is shown by figures given in the *Boletim da Alfandega* for the first eight months of the present fiscal year shows a decrease of the duties of 1,145,000\$ as compared with the same period of last year. Yet, we feel almost persuaded that duties will be increased, because the collection is so easy. If we may venture to suggest anything, our advice would be to immediately restore the 2 per cent. so heedlessly taken off export duties and even increase these by 2 per cent. more. In this manner, *Lavoura*, would be paying a fairer share of the expenses of the country than it contributes at present. When the figures at the Rio de Janeiro Custom house be considered, it is at once seen what commerce contributes:

Fiscal year.....	1884-85	1883-84
Import duties for		
eight months..	20,850,269\$424	21,995,857\$338
Exp. duties do.	5,754,286 809	4,184,499 429

or in other words commerce contributes nearly four times the amount agriculture does. This is merely from the figures of the Custom house; if to these be added taxes on trade, licences, *decima urbana*, tax on dividends etc. the proportion would be greatly increased. Of course we concede that agriculture, as the consumer, is the prime cause of importations, but we insist that it does not produce its fair part of the taxes, and this requires correction. The promise of economies is, we confess, received *cum grano salis*. We have seen the same promise so often neglected, that to use, an old saying, we are persuaded "promises are like pie-crust; made to be broken." We in no manner question Senator Dantas' sincerity in making his reference to economies, but until they be visible we must reserve the right to retain our resemblance to the doubting Apostle.

THE extracts we print from the speech with which Sr. Cesario Alvim, president of the province of Rio de Janeiro, opened the provincial assembly are rather striking when contrasted with the speech of H. M. the Emperor in opening the General Chambers. Sr. Alvim has to our mind gone rather too far in his remarks on the railway system of the province, when claiming that the Macahé extension of the Rio Bonito branch of the Cantagallo railway is to injure the Macahé and Campos railway. He says: "Our object is to attract to the Cantagallo road the great bulk of the produce and merchandise now carried by sea"; *id est*, by the steamers of the Macahé and Campos railway company. We cannot but think that this direct attack on a private company was uncalled for. Then appears the question as to how the very moderate quantity of 4,200,000\$ is to be raised. The 6 per cent. bonds of the province are above par to be sure, but it seems at least a subject of discussion, whether the province could put out at par so large a sum as 4,200,000\$, unless as is possibly the idea of the president, this loan would be secured by specific charges on the railways and extensions he proposes for the sanction of the provincial legislature. His action, in vetoing a bill renewing the contract for the sale of the Cantagallo line, has naturally obliged him

to offer some plans that this undertaking produces a fair interest on the amount the province has invested therein, and he has done so. We are entirely opposed to administrative management of companies. It never was, nor can it be, in America a strategical nor commercial necessity that governments should own and manage railways. In Europe, where there are no visible frontiers, but one passes from a country to another imperceptibly, it may be justifiable for government to lay a strong hand upon the railways; but even there, in case of a war, the government could secure the roads with little difficulty. This military view so far as the Cantagallo railway is concerned, is quite out of the question and we can see no necessity of the provincial government putting further large sums of money into an enterprise that could be, without doubt better managed by a private company. We venture to advise that the province converts the railway into cash as soon as possible, and we feel no doubt that there are responsible parties here who would bid for the road, always providing a profit was possible and not an almost certain loss, as occurred when the road was considered sold to the party, who after making the purchase could not consummate it without an application to foreign markets. What president Alvim says regarding immigration is as neat a case of hard hitting as has been seen; so much so that we sincerely regret we cannot print it in this number. His Excellency commences by saying: Of the advanced southern provinces Rio de Janeiro has been the most careless in this matter (immigration), when it is forced upon her with more urgency and strength, than upon any other. . . . Possessing in its bosom the best bay in America and also the principal *emporium* of the empire the province of Rio de Janeiro offered an easy and lucrative market for African importation, to which it exclusively owed the opening of its forests, the establishments of its important villages (*povoados*) and those larger fortunes, which generations who shared with the negro the severe (*insano*) and unrecognized (*ignorado*) labor in the wilderness left to the prodigality of those who knew not its heavy cost. Later came the railways, not entirely as an element of future wealth (*riqueza a crear*) but as a perfected drain (*escudadura*) of already amassed capital. The president goes on to say: The province of Rio is the first in the organization of slave labor, and, also, it unhappily occupies the first place among those, who *per se*, or through its planters, has most availed of an immoderate use of credit. President Alvim, whether purposely or unconsciously, has furnished the clue to the strong anti-emanipation sentiment of the province of Rio de Janeiro. The planters have abused of credit and are consequently no longer masters of their political consciences; they must perforce vote, for and cause to be voted, such candidates as the holders of their mortgages order them to support. Can any sadder picture be imagined in a country claiming to have a free electoral law? Can the deputies from the province of Rio claim to represent the real sentiments of the majority of the inhabitants of the province? If as president Alvim allows us to infer the planters of Rio are so embarrassed that a free expression of opinion is not possible, will there ever be a chance of learning the real opinion of the voters, whose desire, as Brazilians, H. M. the Emperor states from the Throne is for emancipation? That ominous expression as to the maintenance of order pending the solution of the labour question may yet be of more purport, than, we confess, we first gave it on persual of the Speech. We only hope that patriotism will conquer partizanship and a speedy solution lift the weight now weighing upon all.

POLICE ORGANIZATION.

It is to be regretted that the government did not avail of the disbanding of the *Guarda Urbana* for making a thorough change in all matters connected with the policing of the city. The opportunity was a good one and advantage should have been taken of it.

The most necessary reforms to our mind, now that the military have taken over the service, is the appointing of police magistrates to take cognizance of petty offenses, and the modification of the criminal law to the end that these magistrates may impose fines not exceeding 50\$000, or imprisonment for a period of not over a month in punishment of these offenses.

It seems to us that such reforms would be of great benefit to the orderly majority of our population and the fines would go a long way towards meeting the expenses of the magistrates' pay. Appoint lawyers if considered necessary; but we think it would be best to nominate persons unskilled in the law. A lawyer is much too cautious to make a good police authority; he has too much consideration as to the *pros* and *cons*. A police magistrate should have sufficient energy to act promptly and assume responsibility and we are informed that the best *sub-delegados* of our police organization are not necessarily Bachelors of law. The advantages of a magistrate's court were very patent to us not long ago, for a very unpleasant gentlemen, who announced he was an American, and was under the influence of the sun in his eyes, made the sidewalk in front of the *Globo* restaurant disgusting in the extreme. No police appeared, but his filthy language and drunken antics attracted a crowd. Now, here was just the case for a summary fine, or a week or ten days treadmill exercise. Brazil is undeniably backward in police regulations. There is rather too much show and not enough effect. Whether such reforms as we have suggested could be carried out by the executive, or must be submitted to the legislative, powers we are not lawyers enough to say, but no one can question their necessity and we earnestly call the attention of the government to them.

MUSICAL RIO.

Statistics of the importation of harmoniums, harps and pianos are published in the *Boletim da Alfandega* of the 10th inst. and from these it appears that 1,789 were imported during the fiscal years from 1879-80 to 1883-84.

We regret that the *Boletim* did not give the number of each, for we feel persuaded that harps and harmoniums must have been much less numerous than pianos.

There can be few cities, that are so *philo-piano*—if we may coin a word—as this very loyal and heroic city of St. Sebastian of the River of January. The sound of them attracts, or repels according to circumstances, from the most unexpected quarters. The piano seems as necessary to the *Fluminense* as the *pendule* to the Parisian.

We confess that we have no taste for music, and still less ear, but the one (did we possess the necessary faculties) would be distressed and the other shattered by the wear and tear, they would have to submit to, through this constant piano-playing, which is heard in our streets. Were we to be called upon to assume an official position we would cause a law, or regulation, to be passed, that only when accompanied by a certificate of the proficiency, from our Conservatory of Music of some member of the family, would any individual be allowed to purchase a piano.

The law would increase to labours of the Conservatory to be sure, but the advantages would be great; and the idea is offered to

the powers that be. We have no claim to wit, but as we write we are positively suffering from the infliction of what sounds like *scabies* (if that is the right name for repeating an incalculable number of times the same notes) and we feel a trifle morbid.

Statist London Jan. 31

THE PROSPECT OF 1885.

With regard to the prospect for the current year, a great deal of what we said a year ago may also be repeated. What we said then was:—"It is not difficult to anticipate that the beginning of the year 1884 will not be very satisfactory. It begins, in fact, in the midst of serious languor and depression; and these influences, it is hardly possible to doubt, will continue to operate for some time to come. Changes in such matters are very slow; in fact, the depression has come about so slowly, and the fall of prices has been so steady and prolonged, that it becomes impossible to anticipate that there will be any sudden recovery very soon. Apparently, business has to go through a more difficult time than it has had to go through for some years, and for the moment we cannot say that there is a sign of change for the better." *Mutatis mutandis*, we may now say of the beginning of 1885 what we said of the beginning of 1884. As we said a year ago also, the most puzzling circumstance is the extreme lowness of prices; and of course, as the range of prices is much lower than it was a year ago, when things seemed, according to former experience, to have been approaching the bottom, the perplexity of the situation is increased. What is to be feared is that the fall of prices having hit so many capitalists severely, no elasticity is left for a quick recovery, and those concerned must wait patiently and look about them before they can venture on any strong speculation for the rise, which will, no doubt, be the beginning of any recovery. Because, however, recovery has been so long deferred, we are disposed to think that the chances of the recovery taking place in the course of the current year are much greater than they appeared to be at the beginning of last year with regard to the year which had then commenced. The fall in commodities has been so great, that it must have provided for any adjustment that may be necessary to the scarcity of gold at the present time; so that there is now an undoubted margin for improvement. The restriction of credit for so long a period must also have had the effect of bringing almost all business, not only in this country but abroad, to a very sound basis, a large part of it being carried on without borrowed money at all, and from hand to mouth. Some of the circumstances, also, which have been unfavourable for the wholesale merchant and manufacturer have been conducive to the prosperity of the retailer and of the working classes. The retailer has been able to obtain his stocks at very low prices; and it has not been necessary for him to give the whole advantage to the consumer, although the consumer has had part of the advantage. Both classes, therefore, for two years past have been deriving benefit from the circumstances which have been so unfavourable to the wholesale merchant and manufacturer, and undoubtedly large savings have been made in certain directions. If the working classes were more thrifty than they are, it is certain that the continuance of a state of circumstances like that of the last two years would have been preparing the way for a very rapid recovery. Still, considerable savings have been made, and these will undoubtedly tell in various ways in the direction of improvement. The masses having more to spend, if they do not save, will be able to purchase additional quantities of commodities, and to some extent the improvement in the Woollen Trade is due to the increased purchases of the masses. The savings of the lower middle classes must also in some form or other in time have an effect upon the Money Market and upon the markets for securities generally; and when a surplus begins to press upon these markets, improvement will not be long deferred. A very little improvement, it must be remembered also, will suffice to give heart to the capitalist and merchant, who will suddenly find that their stocks of commodities and securities on every side have improved in value, and will feel themselves richer than they have done for several years. The most doubtful symptom of all, perhaps, is that, in spite of the great depression which has taken place, wages have not yet been completely adjusted, as prices of commodities have been, to the greater value of gold which has been brought about by its scarcity. That such a fall of wages is very likely to take place, we cannot but believe; and if there had been a more general fall of wages in the leading trades during the last two years than there has been, we should be more confident than we are now of an early recovery. A great deal, of course, will also depend upon the harvest. The harvest of last year was a good one, but still not sufficiently good enough to bring all the results of improvement

which might have been expected; while for the farming interest those results have been neutralized disastrously by the fall of prices. A good harvest at home, coupled with prices which would still be low, although a good deal higher than they are now, is what is wanted to bring about a general improvement in the country trade, which would contribute to the improvement which we anticipate from the circumstances of the small retailer and the consumer. There is still necessary, however, a good deal of caution in business, owing to the danger of failures which continues, notwithstanding the great restriction of credit. It is not well to be too sanguine, and if improvement should come during the course of the present year, people will be all the more ready for it if they hold their hands now, and have means available for taking advantage of the turn of the tide when it comes.

Gazeta de Noticias, 5th March.

POLITICAL AFFAIRS.

AN attempt to force the Dantas cabinet to withdraw before the complete organization of the Chamber, that is before the opinion of the majority of the country is known respecting the slave question, is not to oppose the idea of abolition, nor even opposition to the project of the government; it is, pure and simple, opposition to Senator Dantas, and it seems to us this was not the duty that a part of the nation imposed on those representatives, so far acknowledged as elected. If all appealed in sincerity to the ballot-box, the duty of each and of all is to await the decision of this. Everything else is irregular; everything else is a struggle for power, in prejudice to the struggle of opinions. Still further; this little game will be a system of guerilla warfare, by which the opponents of abolition, hesitating between the seductions of place and the support of some electors, have always endeavored to escape decisive (*grandes*) battles and preferred (even this in the last case) a war of skirmishes. So it was that the first Chamber of the Liberal situation refused to consider Sr. Joaquim Nabuco's project; so it was that the late Chamber used every endeavor to defeat the Dantas cabinet outside of its project, by provoking divisions, which they wished the cabinet to make votes of confidence; finally, so it was on the day of the decisive vote, when an undisciplined private was necessary to frankly state the question which the chiefs wished to avoid (*à brûle-pour le lard*). . . . Is it just, that under such conditions, where the question has been so loyally placed by the government on open (*franca*) ground, that its adversaries should endeavor to combat it on an entirely different field? We do not think so and if the Conservatives and the dissidents do this, they will furnish a cause for once more confirming the opinion of such as think that our statesmen are moved more by partizan interests or personal ambition than by the public weal. . . .

YELLOW FEVER.

Dr. Nuno de Andrade, Port health inspector, on the 25th ulto. sent the following communication to the minister of empire:

I have the honor to advise Your Excellency that up to this date no case of yellow fever has occurred on the vessels in port, although not a few cases have appeared in the city. This fact, worthy of record, corroborates the observation of what occurred in the years 1882, 1883 and 1884, during which although there was an epidemic on shore, none was manifested afloat, contrary to the former observations, when the first cases registered in the city were always followed by a violent epidemic afloat, which in its turn caused an increase in the epidemic ashore. It is to-day proven by experience that the germ of yellow fever is lodged (*domiciliado*) in the city and on the beaches and that the order for the hauling off of vessels to the sanitary line, was of all measures that which has produced the most happy results. Commerce, which at the commencement protested against the measure, has already accepted it in view of the benefits obtained. We have not had the pain of seeing, as happened in former years, foreign vessels lose here in port all their crews, and the consignees obliged to engage new crews to take them to the port of departure (?). I think, therefore, that as to the sanitary service of the port, we may consider the periodical epidemic of yellow fever extinct, and believe at the same time that this fact will show the possibility of completely freeing ourselves of this fatal guest of 35 years standing, when the improvements of the hygienic condition of the city shall be carried out. All things considered, the sanitary service of the provincial ports does not yet seem properly established and I think it my duty to call Your Excellency's attention to the plan for preliminary reforms which I had the honor to submit to the Imperial government about the end of 1882, and which caused, through the Council of State, the decree of February 10th, 1883. I am convinced that the sanitary service of the ports of the empire should be uniform.

O Paiz 19th March.

THE SITUATION.

The Chamber of Deputies held a session yesterday and elected president, Sr. Conselheiro Moreira de Barros. This gentleman, as is known, is the chief of the Liberal opposition, which numbering not more than twelve known members, would in itself be insufficient to bring about the victory of its candidate. As Sr. Moreira de Barros had 45 votes out of 83 received, it is evident that the Conservative opposition gave him all their votes. If the legal number of the Chamber were complete this manifestation would have such a political meaning and range that it would cause the resignation of the ministry. But, since so many Deputies are not yet recognized, in number sufficient to change the character of the Chamber and show a real parliamentary majority, it is evident that the election of Sr. Moreira de Barros is, for the present, a parliamentary occurrence, without consequence. In fact no one can admit that the vote of a political group can be taken as the expression of the will of the nation; although it may be sufficient to demonstrate the chance majority of the opposition over the government, it is nevertheless unable to cause a political crisis. Constitutionally, no parliamentary vote can have this effect before the rights of all the Deputies are decided. It can neither be comprehended nor admitted, that by a purely eventual circumstance and one dependent on further occurrences, any clique (*grupos*) may claim to itself the right to speak for the whole nation, when nearly half of the representatives of this are still awaiting the examination of their diplomas, before taking their seats. Here is seen that the first obligation of the Chamber is, to use all activity in examining these diplomas. From its character this matter is first placed and in advance of all others; one half of the country, which is still outside the legislature, cannot logically be subjected to the decision of any minority, whose members are already recognized and proclaimed Deputies.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES

March 8.—The extraordinary Legislative Session convoked by the decree of September 3rd 1884 was opened to-day, when the Emperor read the following address:

August and Most worshipful Representatives of the Nation:

The meeting of the General Assembly arouses on this occasion the best founded hopes with regard to the object of this extraordinary session.

My much beloved and dearly prized daughter the Crown Princess, and the Count d'Eu, my much beloved and dearly prized son-in-law, are on their way back from their journey to the provinces of S. Paulo, Paraná, Santa Catharina and S. Pedro do Rio Grande do Sul, having received from all classes proofs of esteem and dedication for which I am sincerely grateful.

Public order has been maintained unaltered, and the relations of the Empire with other countries continue to be on a friendly footing.

The public health in the metropolis and in the provinces is generally satisfactory.

Yellow fever this year has only appeared in a few sporadic cases. Small-pox has spread in various districts of the provinces of Amazonas, Pará, Pernambuco and Alagoas.

In consequence of an outbreak of cholera in some parts of Europe, the necessary steps were taken to prevent its invading the Empire. Fortunately the epidemic is extinct, and we have escaped exempt from it.

The present extraordinary session was recommended by the need, which I am sure you will meet with the greatest solicitude, of coming to some decision on the project which the government considers advisable for the gradual extinction of slavery in our country, in accordance with the wishes of all Brazilians, in such a way that the sacrifice shall be the least possible and shall not interfere with the nation's productive power.

Your wisdom will recognize the expediency of securing the tranquillity necessary for the complete substitution of slave labor.

I feel assured that the naval and military estimates and the Budget for the financial year of 1885-86 will also engage your attention, and that you will provide for them with the most scrupulous and thorough economy, in such a manner as to inspire confidence in the restoration of the equilibrium between the public revenue and expenditure.

August and Most worshipful Representatives of the Nation:

Your zeal for the public welfare is a guarantee that you will spare no pains in the patriotic discharge of your duty.

The extraordinary session is hereby declared opened.

March 9.—No quorum in the Chamber and meetings are being held in reference to the election of its officers. The local press say, that until this is decided no quorum will appear. The Senate met

and adopted a proposal of the president that the house should endeavour to prevent an accumulation of bills of little importance such as the matriculation of students etc., and discuss such others as are already reported from committee. The committee on reply to the Throne was chosen.

March 10.—In the Senate, Sr. Silveira da Motta's project, held over since August last, for emancipation was ordered to be printed. Senator Correia asked for information as to the change in the ministry and the premier said in reply that the withdrawal of the minister of foreign affairs was caused by his losing his seat in the Chamber and that the reason the portfolio was not given to another, was, that during the time that the legislature was not sitting, the government did not consider it necessary, while as at present the Chamber is not complete, it considered it well to await this completion. The bill to legitimize natural children was taken up and adjourned, on a motion of Senator Junqueira that the minister of justice be present at the debate. In the Chamber of Deputies, there was no quorum.

March 11.—In the Senate, the committee on the reply to the Speech reported. In the Chamber, Deputy Moreira de Barros was elected president, Lourenço de Albuquerque, Franklin Dória and Barão de Guahy vice-presidents; Afonso Celso Jr. and Valladares secretaries. Deputy Valladares asked to be excused as he opposed the government, and Afonso Celso Jr. also asked to be excused; the Chamber refused both applications. Deputies Sinimbu Jr. and Costa Rodrigues were then elected third and fourth secretaries. The president proposed to elect the committee on the reply to the Speech, which was objected to by Deputy Zama, on the ground that many deputies had left the house; the president ordered a vote, but there was no quorum.

March 12.—In the Senate, Sr. Junqueira in proposing a motion for examining into disturbances at Bahia during the late elections, charged that the government had been defeated by the election of the officers of the Chamber of Deputies, which the premier denied, saying that until the Chamber had examined into and reported upon all the diplomas, the government would not accept a vote of confidence; some 40 elections have still to be decided and these may entirely change the majority; in reply to an interruption, he said, that there must be a regular and immediate solution of the question which caused the extraordinary session, and the Chamber can take up no other business pending this. There was no quorum in the Chamber.

PROVINCIAL NOTES

—The Bahia custom house receipts in February were 740,612\$329.

—The January receipts of the Pará custom house were 651,921\$859, against 542,557\$094 for the same month of 1884.

—The Desterro, Sta. Catharina, custom house receipts in January were 58,685\$828, against 45,186\$876 in January 1884.

—The January receipts of the Rio Grande do Sul custom houses were 490,102\$049, against 439,669\$431 for the same month of 1884.

—During February the deposits in the Bahia Caixa Economica were 71,586\$ and 37,310\$433 was withdrawn; the balance on deposit at the end of the month was 1,963,140\$373.

—The exports of rubber from Pará in 1884 were 70,936,679 kilos, divided as follows: Europe 5,500,079 kilos, United States 5,436,000. In 1883 the exports were 10,285,803 kilos. Stock on January 1st 1885 was 940,000 kilos against 334,000 kilos, on January 1st 1884.

—The exports, according to the *Diário de Gram Pará*, from the port of Pará for the year 1884 were valued at 26,161,189\$085, of which (if the items are correct) 887,302\$490 came to the southern provinces; as our colleague prints 895,205\$490, we ask him to look over the table.

—The *Paiz* of the 10th publishes the following extract from the message of the president of the province to the Legislative Assembly of Maranhão: With a population of, more or less, 450,000 souls, the province has only 167 public schools. The pupils of both sexes registered number 5,489, or 1.22 per 100 inhabitants; of these 4,343 only attend school, or 0.97 per 100. There is evidently a misprint in the proportions our colleague gives, which we take the liberty of correcting.

—O *Paiz* of Maranhão on the 21st ulto, publishes: We know that the 5th battalion of infantry is in a really miserable state as to uniforms. So bad is the affair that in a few days no sentinels can be furnished, as the privates are bare-footed, although several semesters (of pay) are already overdue. A certain person tells us that the privates who mount guard use the few pairs of shoes disposable, which are bought by their comrades who have money and loaned to them through *esprit de corps* (*coleguismo*).

PROVINCE OF RIO DE JANEIRO.

From the speech with which the president of the province opened the extraordinary session of the Legislative Assembly on the 9th, we may extract the following:

I do not need to remind you of the various occurrences in the question of the sale of the Cantagallo railway. The alienation of the line, an important property of the province, was decreed, after the opinions of the provincial authorities on a long series of events, carelessly noticed, had been led to it. After successive modifications of the contract, asked for by him who claimed it (alienation?) all the end of facilitating the raising of money for the purchase of the trunk line in traffic and the making of extensions, which he had obliged himself to construct, the ex-contractor saw all his attempts in foreign markets miscarry, for these showed him the incumbent necessity for obtaining the funds asked, of the permanence of an interest guarantee for 15 years. It was principally this new feature in the contract, to which you added the penalty of lapsing already executed (*fúlmida*) by the administration, that caused me the pain of returning the law as voted, while I gave all due justice to the illustrious Rio assembly.... You did not then wish to definitively resolve the question, while clearly showing me your elevated views (*intuito*), which I was very happy to second in the matter of the auspicious and not to be postponed extension of the Rio Bonito branch to Macaé, which I succeeded in contracting for with a success that will certainly soften any asperity of your criticisms on other administrative acts, which my insignificant intelligence may have, by chance, badly directed.... As you are aware the construction of the Rio Bonito branch, the most important work that has been lately decreed by the provincial legislature aims at, not only the cheap and easy transportation of the produce of the belt, through which it will be built, but principally to attract to the Cantagallo railway the great bulk (*massa*) of the produce and merchandise that to-day passes over the Macaé and Campos, Barão de Araruama, S. Antonio de Pádua and Carangola railways situated in the north of the province, and which is exported and imported almost exclusively by water carriage, that is through the ports of Macaé and S. João da Barra.... To attain this desideratum it becomes necessary: to adopt a uniform gauge, so that transshipments of merchandise, from the shipping point to that of final discharge, may be avoided, thus preventing unnecessary expenses which would be either disadvantageous in the freight charge, or would cause a loss to the nett revenue of the branch line; to extend the Cantagallo railway to the Ponta d'Área and there establish the terminus, and finally to close the break caused by the Parahyba river between the terminus of the Macaé and Campos and the starting-point of the Carangola railways. I have referred also to the Leopoldina railway, for this will before long, connect a part of its important system with the Carangola and S. Antonio de Pádua lines, as this will be demanded by mutual interests and also by those of the rich belt they serve; the insignificant distances between the stations of Miracema on the S. Antonio de Pádua and of Poço Fundo on the Carangola, and those of Tapirussú and Vargem Grande on the Leopoldina foreshadows this.... The construction of a branch of the Cantagallo railway from Alcantara station through Itaóba valley to Maricá also seems to me a useful measure.... The extension of the Cantagallo railway from the Macuco station to the banks of the Rio Grande at a proper point, it has been considered would produce an increase of revenue.... In this manner the extension which should be given to the Cantagallo railway will be completed at the very moderate expenditure of 4,200,000\$.

RAILROAD NOTES

—The Paulista company gives January receipts at 234,435\$840 and expenses 85,022\$640.

—The January traffic receipts of the Itana, S. Paulo, railway were 62,218\$240 and expenses 31,433\$120. These figures include both trunk line and branch.

—The traffic returns of the "Bahia do S. Francisco" for the year 1884 were: receipts 597,826\$680 and expenses 529,998\$030, included in the latter is the sum of 45,021\$800 differences in exchange. Of the merchandise transported about 5,861 tons were sugar and 2,802 tobacco.

—The fiscal engineer's report, dated on the 12th February ulto, gives the traffic receipts for 1884 of the Campos and Carangola Co. at 509,931\$891 and expenses 343,689\$191. The fiscal states that the capital expended up to 30th June ulto, was 5,482,573\$521, but after necessary deductions, the amount is reduced to 5,460,570\$448. "The capital expended up to 31st December is not given (*monciada*) because the company refused to give explanations, alleging that the December accounts are not yet settled."

—The February receipts, of the Leopoldina railway, including telegraph and salt, was 111,219\$270, of which these latter contributed 16,572\$790.

—The director of the Cantagallo railway gives the receipts for 1884 at 1,495,919\$209 and expenses, 1,226,087\$541; balance 179,831\$668, against 195,378\$000 for 1883. The director says that 103,684\$620 was paid for two locomotives, two first and four second class cars and sundry additions to the plant of the road. He claims that expenses have been reduced by about 119,000\$ per annum, which seems an enormous sum in relation to the nett result of the railway and a disagreeable proof that expenses were not hitherto closely looked after.

—The balance sheets of the Itana railway, S. Paulo for the last half of 1884 give the following particulars:

Capital paid in; trunk and branches.....	5,998,450\$000
Amount paid by the province on guaranteed interest including July dividend.....	1,372,606 329
Construction permanent way tools etc.....	5,987,785 117
Nett balance for six months....	110,583 250

The balance sheet seems to us unnecessarily complicated.

RIVER PLATE ITEMS.

From the Standard

—Who says that the Brazilians are more refined than Argentines? They are not. They threw water about in cataracts during Carnival, and half Rio has since got a cold in its head or on its chest. Throwing water, borrowing money, and a weakness for Shimplasters are amiable traits bred in the love of the Southern part of this great Continent.

—The *Pampa* had another note of serious warning yesterday on the mail project to allow the banks to discount on gold. The *Prensa* says there will be bad work, very bad work, immediately, if not sooner, if the Government do not take some steps. The steps to take are plain enough: Sell all the State Railways and works; cut down the public expenditure 25 per cent; reduce the civil service staff in the same ratio; let Government stop meddling with banks, exchange etc, and in a few years the country will pull through.

—The following table shews the wool-clip of the world, in millions lbs.:

	1860.	1870.	1880.
Europe.....	715	807	665
U. States.....	112	154	210
Australia.....	70	197	390
R. Plate.....	56	107	260
Cape of G. Hope.....	28	46	52
Total.....	981	1,371	1,577

Thus the wool-clip of the above countries has risen 60 per cent. in 20 years, or 4 times faster than population, and yet prices have fallen only 22 per cent. It is quite possible that in the next 15 or 20 years wool may fall another 20 per cent., but sheep-farming will still be one of the most lucrative pursuits in the world.

—There is a strong feeling in B. Ayres to the effect that the National Government ought to sell some of the State railways, &c. The sums expended and the probable market value of the same are as follows:—

	Cost	Market Value.
	\$	\$
City Improvements....	17,200,000	13,000,000
Andine Railway.....	11,700,000	8,400,000
G. Northern.....	13,600,000	9,500,000
Boca Port.....	3,300,000	2,000,000
	45,800,000	32,900,000

The proceeds of sale could be used to redeem the debts of heaviest interest and sinking-fund, after setting apart 15 millions to be deposited in specie in the Nat. Bank, thus raising the reserve to 20 millions or 70 per cent. of the issue. This would at once restore equilibrium.

—The following table shews the quantities and values of exports for 1883 and 1884:—

	1883	1884
	Tons	Tons
Wheat.....	60,755	108,499
Flour.....	4,847	3,734
Maize.....	18,624	113,677
Linseed.....	23,046	33,992
Sundries.....	—	—
	107,272	259,902
	Value	Value
	1883	1884
Wheat.....	\$2,430,000	\$4,340,000
Flour.....	343,000	261,000
Maize.....	373,000	2,274,000
Linseed.....	1,152,000	1,700,000
Sundries.....	399,000	328,000
	4,697,000	8,993,000

Rio de Janeiro, 5th March, 1885.
For The New London and Brazilian Bank, Limited,
Edward Herdman, Manager
Ers. Drake, actg. Accountant.

Insurance.**GUARDIAN FIRE AND LIFE INSURANCE CO.**

Agents in Rio de Janeiro

Smith & Youle.

No. 62, Rua 1^o de Março.**THE LIVERPOOL AND LONDON AND GLOBE INSURANCE COMPANY.**

Agents in Rio de Janeiro

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